

June 21, 2005

Re: City of Sanford Alternative Water Service Irrigation Program

Dear Utility Customer:

As one part of a broad-based response to a Florida Department of Environmental Protection mandate for the City to cease discharging reclaimed water into Lake Monroe, the City adopted a reclaimed water irrigation program in 1998. Initially included in this irrigation program were all major City properties, including parks and Mayfair Golf Course. (We now have over 1000 residential, commercial and agricultural customers). Experience at a number of other locations within the State of Florida and our studies shows that treatment of this reclaimed water to the highest Department of Environmental Protection Standards (Unrestricted Public Access Quality) and use of this water for irrigation through-out the City is a cost effective and beneficial action. In addition to improving the overall quality of Lake Monroe for environmental and recreational purposes, the irrigation use of this reclaimed water reduces the heavy demand on the ground water sources which we presently tap for all City water. The nutrients contained in the reclaimed water will significantly reduces the amount of fertilizer which trees, shrubs and lawns need to remain healthy and beautiful. This reclaimed water is also entirely suitable for many commercial and industrial process uses, and for agricultural irrigation of food crops.

There are approximately 45 miles of reclaimed water lines in the current distribution systems. That is compare to over 200 miles of lines in both the potable water and sewer collection system. With limited reclaimed water availability, expansion must be prudently planned.

Smaller scale expansion of the reclaimed water system is based on demand, reclaimed water availability, cost-effectiveness and budget constraints. If the project is not cost-effective, addition participants and/or customer financial contribution would be necessary.

Regular fees for the reclaimed water service have been designed to save money for irrigation and commercial/industrial process water purposes, compared with our potable water rates; and for well operations costs. There will be a monthly customer charge of \$3.65 and a consumption charge of \$0.53 per thousand gallons (significantly less than potable water). One time fees for physical connection to our main, meter set, and installation of the required backflow preventer on the potable water line will vary with the size of reclaimed water service.

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As a reclaimed water irrigation user, your most significant responsibilities will be to provide a dedicated in-ground sprinkler system. Other subscriber responsibilities and details of the sprinkler system requirements are provided for your information on a separate enclosure, titled Subscriber Responsibilities.

If you have any questions, please contact the Manager, Utility Support Services at (407)330-5649. Application forms may be mailed to City of Sanford, P.O. Box 1788, Sanford, FL 32772-1788, or may be delivered to the Utility Department in City Hall.

Sanford joins a growing number of cities through-out Florida and the rest of the nation that are irrigating with reclaimed water in order to protect the environment and to conserve valuable water resource for our children's future. Please submit your subscription form today and become a part of this important program.

Sincerely,

CITY OF SANFORD

William M. Marcous  
Manager, Utility Support Services

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**CITY OF SANFORD  
RECLAIMED WATER PROGRAM**

**RECLAIMED WATER INSPECTIONS REQUIRED 48 HOURS NOTICE  
PLEASE CALL (407)330-5649 FOR ASSISTANCE**

**SUBSCRIBER RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Complete a program introduction.
2. If necessary, comply with specified hours or maximum rate for sprinkler use.
3. Know existing City policies regarding utility billing and how it applies to reclaimed water services.
4. Make no unauthorized cut into or connection with the system.
5. If property is located in the City and is within 75 feet of a City potable water line, be required to connect to this potable line and become water customers of the City of Sanford.
6. Shall not allow reclaimed water is primarily to enter a dwelling unit or a building containing a dwelling unit.
7. Be aware that reclaimed water is primarily used for irrigation and is not for consumption or sanitary purposes.
8. Irrigate when human or animal contact is least likely.
9. If necessary, install an appropriate hot water tank pressure relief valve to protect the system from thermal expansion.
10. Owners of rental properties being served with reclaimed water shall inform renters of Subscribers Responsibilities.
11. If necessary, install an "Irrigation with Reclaimed Water" sign provided by the City for water restriction enforcement.
12. Irrigation of edible crops that will be peeled, skinned, cooked or thermally processed before consumption is allowed. All others must be irrigated indirectly.

**SPRINKLER SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS**

1. The City reserves the right to inspect, remove and/or secure any or all devices installed by the customer which connect to or control the reclaimed water systems.
2. Refusal to permit inspection or to correct deficiencies shall be a violation of the subscription agreement and shall be grounds for immediate disconnection from the reclaimed water system.
3. The reclaimed water irrigation system shall be:
  - A. A dedicated in-ground irrigation system, using large droplet low-trajectory heads, or
  - B. Direct underground irrigation
  - C. Installed or operated so as to
    - 1) irrigate the owner's property and adjacent parkway greenspace only, and
    - 2) to minimize overspray and run off.
  - D. Controlled by an automatic timer.
  - E. Fitted with a potable water anti-backflow device by the City.
  - F. Separate five feet (5') horizontally and eighteen inches (18") vertically from potable water lines.
  - G. Without hose bids and facets unless enclosed in a lockable box to prevent inappropriate use. Hoses so connected shall not be left unattended. Hose bibs which can only be operated by a special tool may be placed in a non-lockable underground service box clearly labeled as non-potable water.
  - H. Disconnected from any drinking water system or irrigation system or irrigation well. Wells utilized in close systems for heating or air conditioning functions are allowed.
  - I. Be separated by a distance of (75') feet from private water supply wells.
  - J. (If new) fitted with a rain sensor device or switch.
  - K. Fitted with a shut-off (ball or hand) valve near meter.

## **KNOW YOUR IRRIGATION CONTRACTOR**

The Florida irrigation Society recommends asking the contractor the following:

- ? Do you have a license to do this work? May I see this license before you begin the work?
- ? Would you provide me a copy of your certificate of insurance?
- ? Do you provide me an “as installed schematic” of my sprinkler system that I may retain for future reference?
- ? May I see list of reference which I might contact for verification?
- ? Do you offer warranty on parts and labor for the entire system including covering my dry spots which may appear?
- ? How long have you been in business?
- ? Do you have a business telephone/address?
- ? Do you have an irrigation service vehicle with the name of your company printed on the side?
- ? Will you install a backflow prevention device to protect from possibly drinking contaminated water?
- ? Will you guarantee that overspray be left to a minimum?
- ? Are you going to zone stationary sprinklers and the rotating sprinklers separately to prevent wetting?
- ? Following completion of the job, will you instruct me in the operation of my system, both in the automatic and manual modes?
- ? Further, will you demonstrate to me that each part of my system is completely operational before payment is received?
- ? Are you a member of the Florida Irrigation Society?

## **HINTS ON OPERATING YOUR SPRINKLER SYSTEM**

- a. Operate only one valve at a time.
- b. Water when pressure will be greatest; usually in the early morning.
- c. Water shrubs, trees and plants deep and less frequently than lawn.
- d. Water lawn area for shorter periods and more frequently to avoid runoff.
- e. Water when it is least windy, usually in the early morning.
- f. The system should be checked and cleaned periodically to assure proper functioning.